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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHMHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8559
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1944
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1314
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Tuesday morning's Asahi front-paged an informal GOJ decision to deploy Japan Coast Guard cutters to carry out inspections of North Korean cargo in view of an anticipated US delay in participation. According to the daily, Maritime Self-Defense Force ships will be mobilized only to monitor suspicious ships.

[¶](#)1. "Secretary Rice's Visit: Stronger International 'Net' Around DPRK Needed" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (10/24): "From the standpoint of strengthening the international 'net' around North Korea following its nuclear test, we cannot be satisfied with the results of Secretary of State Rice's recent visit to Japan, South Korea, China, and Russia. These five countries were unable to hammer out specific measures to implement Resolution 1718, which was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council (UNSC).... Even though the five countries were in agreement that they would not accept North Korea's nuclear test or its possession of nuclear weapons, their failure to apply strong pressure can hardly be called the delivery of a 'strong message' to the Kim Jong Il regime.... The US, Japan, South Korea, China, and Russia need to move quickly to create specific sanctions based on Resolution 1718. At the same time, cooperative relationships should be established among them to share intelligence and block the movement into and out of North Korea of 'materials, people, and money' linked to sales of WMD and ballistic missiles.... Even if Pyongyang returns to the six-party talks, it will not readily relinquish its nuclear weapons. As time passes, North Korea will be able to mass-produce nuclear weapons using its abundant supplies of uranium and its existing nuclear facilities. Strengthening the international 'net' around North Korea is an urgent task for Japan, which is directly threatened by its nuclear and missile programs."

SCHIEFFER